Use of kerosene for adulteration

2917. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent NCAER report over half of kerosene supplied to PDS is pilfered and used in petrol and diesel adulteration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the over 75 per cent of Kerosene users in rural areas use it for lighting purposes;

(c) the total cost of India's kerosene imports for each of the last three years;

(d) the steps, if any, contemplated by Government to check pilferage and misuse of kerosene; and

(e) the steps, if any, contemplated by Government to promote use of LPG in rural households?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government have commissioned the first-ever detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December, 2004. They have submitted their interim report in June, 2005. While, the interim report does not indicate the extent of pilferage of PDS kerosene, the final report is likely to attempt an estimate the diversion of PDS kerosene for unintended usage. As per the interim report, nearly 73 per cent of households in rural areas use kerosene for lighting purposes.

(c) The total cost of kerosene imported during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 was about Rs. 808 crore, Rs. 890 crore and Rs. 429 crore respectively.

(d) In order to check pilferage and misuse of kerosene and to ensure that highly subsidized kerosene supplied under the Public distribution Network (PDS) reaches the targeted consumers, the Government have developed an innovative scheme for the marketing of PDS kerosene called "Jan Kerosene Pariyojana". The scheme would be initially implemented as a pilot project *w.e.f.* 2.10.2005 covering about 10 per cent of the blocks in the country. Based on the experience of

the pilot project and its evaluation by an independent agency, the scheme would be further extended to cover all the blocks in the country.

(e) In order to promote use of LPG in rural households, Government have directed Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to concentrate on setting up more distributorships in rural areas and also to adopt innovative methods such as sale through rural mobile vehicles, setting up community kitchens, and sale of small size 5 kg. cylinders for low income group customers.

Unexploited hydro-carbon reserves

2918. SHRI T.T.Y DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hydro-carbon deposits in the country unexploited so far;

(b) whether Government have set aside any percentage of hydrocarbon for future use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total prognosticated hydrocarbon resources in the country amount to 28 billion tonnes oil plus oil equivalent of gas, out of which 8.2 billion tonnes haye been established as reserves in the country *i.e.* 29 per cent of the total prognosticated resources available to the country. The remaining 20 billion tonnes are yet to be established.

(b) and (c) India being an energy deficit country, our thrust has been to optimally produce as much oil and gas as possible from available resources to meet the increasing demand for hydrocarbons. The account is on "optimization", not "maximization" of output to ensure sustained availability not the long term. However, to ensure oil and gas security for the country, the Government has taken the following initiatives:—

(i) acceleration of exploration in domestic areas of Indian sedimentary basins.

(ii) Implementation of IOR/EOR schemes.

(iii) offering of new exploration blocks to National Oil Companies, private/joint venture companies and foreign companies through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).